

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 SCS-03 SY-05 FBIE-00 SCA-01 PPT-01

/067 W

-----170746Z 032669 /17

R 170244Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9783

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: DAVAO DETENTION CASES

REF: MANILA 3258

1. DURING RECENT (MAY 9) VISIT TO DAVAO, POLCOUNS DISCUSSED WITH LOCAL MARYKNOLL DETENTION CASES WHICH RESULTED IN FEBRUARY PRE-TRIAL HEARING REPORTED REFTEL. ALL DETAINEES PICKED UP IN MASS ROUNDUP OF CHURCH LAY LEADERS LAST NOVEMBER IN DAVAO AREA HAVE BEEN RELEASED, EXCEPT FATHER NABAYRA, WHO IS STILL AT CRAME. EFFORTS BY HIS BISHOP, AMCIT JOSEPH REGAN, TO OBTAIN HIS RELEASE HAVE SO FAR PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL. MARYKNOLL SOURCES DOUBT FORMER DETAINEES WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. THEY SEEMED RELAXED ON QUESTION OF DEPORTATION OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES. BEGIN FYI - THERE ARE 25 MARYKNOLL PRIESTS WORKING IN DAVAO DEL NORTE AND ORIENTAL. ALL ARE AMCITS. END FYI.

2. MARYKNOLL FATHERS HAVE EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING THEIR RADIO STATION IN TAGUM, BUT GOP AUTHORITIES SAY THEY WANT ENTIRE STAFF OF STATION CHANGED. MARYKNOLLERS CONSIDER THIS UNACCEPTABLE AND STATION WILL STAY CLOSED.

3. MARYKNOLL FATHER IN MANILA (JOHN DOWLING, WHO WILL RETURN
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TO US AT END OF MAY FOR ABOUT MONTH AND WILL TRY DISCUSS SITUATION IN PHILIPPINES WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, CONGRESS-
IONAL STAFF) TOLD EMBOFF MAY 16 THAT PANAMIN CONTINUES TO HARASS CHURCH LAY LEADERS. HE CLAIMS LILIA JUDILLA (WHOSE AFFIDAVITS CLAIMING SUBVERSION AND COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF CHURCH IN DAVAO AREA WERE BASIS OF FEBRUARY HEARING) HAS BEEN PROMOTED IN PANAMIN HIERARCHY. THIS IS PART OF EXPLANA-

TION FOR CONTINUED DETENTION OF FATHER NABAYRA. DOWLING SAID
LAWYER RECENTLY WAS ALLOWED TO SEE NABAYRA. HE WILL TRY TO HAVE
PRIEST'S CASE SEPARATED FROM THAT OF FORMER DAVAO DETAINEES
SO HE CAN BE PROCESSED AND TRIED SEPARATELY.

4. COMMENT: AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL, THERE WAS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY
GOP WOULD ELECT NOT TO BRING DAVAO DETAINEES TO ACTUAL TRIAL.
MARYKNOLLERS NOW BELIEVE THIS REGIME'S MOST PROBABLE COURSE
OF ACTION, GIVEN MARCOS' PREOCCUPATION WITH MINDANAO AND
UNWILLINGNESS TO FURTHER ANTAGONIZE THE CHURCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA07432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770174-0730
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770549/aaaabqfm.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 3258
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2488723
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAVAO DETENTION CASES
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b67f3d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009